## **Patents** IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JAMES H. WANG, ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/753,077

Filed: March 12, 2001

For:

WATER-RESPONSIVE BIODEGRADABLE ) POLYMER COMPOSITION AND METHOD )

OF MAKING SAME

Art Unit: 1711 Examiner: Jeffrey Mullis

## RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231 Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 26, 2001, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following RECEIVED
TO 1700 remarks.

## REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-33 are the subject of an election requirement. In response to this requirement, applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I which comprises Claims 1-20, 32 and 33 directed to a polymer blend. Applicants are further required to elect a single polar monomer from Claims 8 or 9; a single

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biodegradable polymer from Claim 14 and a single water-soluble polymer from Claim 13. Applicants are also required to elect grafted water-soluble polymers or ungrafted water-soluble polymers. In response to this requirement, applicants hereby elect poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate as the polar monomer; poly(hydroxy alkanoates) as the biodegradable polymer; and polyvinyl alcohol as the water-soluble polymer. Applicants also elect grafted water-soluble polymers. The Office Action further requires applicants to elect a single disclosed species and to identify those claims readable thereon. In response to the requirement, applicants hereby elect poly(\beta-hydroxybutyrate-co-\beta-hydroxyvalerate) grafted with polyethylene glycol methacrylate and blended with polyvinyl alcohol grafted with polyethylene glycol methacrylate. Applicant submits that the claims that are readable thereon are Claims 1-9, 11-20, and 32.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing remarks. Such action is courteously solicited. Applicants further request that the Examiner call the undersigned counsel if allowance of the claims can be facilitated by examiner's amendment, telephone interview or otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,

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Our Docket No. 11302-1050 (44040-251536)

KC# 14,996B

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